

dicta, and expressing unintelligibly for others what they had not understood themselves.

"Correspondence." Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, Monticello, October 13, 1813.)

After all the amphibologies and lapses of memory, and mistakes of understanding, and unintelligible expressions of the evangelists have been sifted out of this dust heap, what remains will be "the creed of Christ" to Mr. Jefferson! Who shall do the sifting? And what becomes of the gospels, which, being false in so many particulars, may be false in all? And what authority will we have for our beliefs on subjects out of our reach? An amphibologism may be a luminous medium to another mind, and indeed to the same mind when seen from a different point of view.

Mr. Lancaster has the right to believe "that the gospels are a true record" in view of all the internal and external evidences of their authenticity and credibility, written as they were or indited by "eye witnesses" "of his majesty" and made perfectly intelligible by the Holy Spirit, who, according to promise, was sent after his ascension to bring all these things to their minds. (John xiv. 23, 26.) Thus he guarantees their infallibility.

Any one capable of understanding human language will readily understand this book, and a serious and thoughtful reader will often stop, with his finger between the leaves, to meditate. The book cannot be galloped through like a novel. Neither can "Pascal's Thoughts" nor "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas A. Kempis. Yet these books still live and sell wherever they are put on sale. We are glad to learn that Mr. Lancaster is already negotiating the issue of a second edition.

H. M. WHITE.

Church News.

VIRGINIA.

Richmond.—The Y. M. C. A. of this city, with Mr. S. K. McKee as general secretary, is very active and prompt in its efforts for the good of the youth and young men and the religious welfare of the city. Hon. R. M. La Follette, United States Senator from Wisconsin, will speak at the Academy of Music on Saturday night, giving his lecture "Graft and Grafters, or the Menace of the Machine." On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 18th, the Rev. Dr. James D. Moffatt, of Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, and Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly, North, will preach at the meeting for men. He will speak on "The Way, the Truth and the Life."

Richmond.—The quarterly meeting of the Woman's Foreign Mission Union of East Hanover Presbytery, was held in the Grace Street Church, Richmond, on Thursday, February 1, at 4 P. M. Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. E. B. McCluer. Mrs. A. R. Jameison, First Vice-President, occupied the chair. Mrs. Howard Gordon, of the Grace Street Church, was elected Secretary, in place of Mrs. George Bryan, resigned. Mrs. F. R. Rennie read a report from the Home Mission Committee as to amounts contributed to Home Missions by the churches of the Presbytery. Mrs. Sallie G. Kean read a paper on "What is Home Missions," founded on the book of Dr. S. L. Morris. Resolutions of sympathy were directed to be sent to the president, Mrs. James P. Smith, in recent domestic affliction, and to Mrs. J. C. Stewart, who is recovering from serious illness. A paper on prayer was read by Mrs. A. R. Jameison. It was ordered that Mrs. O. B. Morgan, Treasurer, take charge of Home Mission funds.

The officers of the Missionary Union are as follows: Mrs. James P. Smith, president; Mrs. Jameison, first vice-president; Mrs. Eggleston, second vice-president; Mrs. J. N. Barney, third vice-president; Mrs. W. B. McIlwaine, fourth vice-president; Mrs. Evan Fraser, corresponding secretary of Home Missions; Mrs. Walter Cone, corresponding secretary of Foreign Missions; Mrs. Howard Gordon, recording secretary; Mrs. O. B. Morgan, treasurer.

At the Hoge Memorial Church on Sunday night, February 11th, there were twelve additions on profession of faith.

Alexandria.—Mr. W. N. Sholl, of Union Theological Seminary, has occupied the pulpit of this church on two Sabbaths—February 4th and February 11th.

Blackstone.—Seven persons were received into the communion of the church here on January 21, as reported in these columns before. Rev. Dr. William McC. White, of Petersburg, preached for the pastor during the week before the winter communion, on Sunday, February 4th, and many others

made professions of faith. Sixteen were received into the church. These, with the seven previously admitted, twenty-three in all, took upon them publicly the vows of discipleship, before a large congregation on this communion Sunday. One was also received by letter, her husband being among the number admitted upon profession. Dr. White's visit and preaching were enjoyed greatly by the people and pastor both. Much religious interest prevades the congregation still, among believers and unbelievers, and also among the cadets of Hoge Academy, seven of whom were among those received, while others of them are interested. May the Holy Spirit bring all to fuller consecration and to fuller assurance of hope.

Bristol Central Church.—Sunday morning, February 4th, eight new officers were elected in this church. This was rendered needful by the rapid and substantial growth of the church. The following gentlemen were chosen to the office of ruling elder and deacon respectively: Messrs. V. Keebler, Wm. J. Fickle, R. G. Hanson and James B. Preston as elders; and Messrs. Chas. W. Warden, Thos. W. Preston, Percy V. Hogan and Chas. E. Allison as deacons. The ordination and installation services will be held in March.

Bristol.—The neat Year Book of the Central Presbyterian Church, Rev. W. H. T. Squires, minister, issued January 1, 1906, is complete, yet compact and full of interesting information of this growing and fruitful church.

Charlottesville.—The Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville recently had a visit from Rev. W. H. Sheppard, our missionary to the Congo. He spoke in the morning and evening at the Presbyterian Church to very large congregations. The people were delighted with his addresses. At night the pastor mentioned that Mr. Sheppard's house and furniture had been burned at Ibange, since he left his home in Africa—that this had not been mentioned by Mr. Sheppard. At the pastor's suggestion, a collection was taken for Mr. Sheppard's benefit in rebuilding and furnishing. One hundred dollars were received in the collection and given to him.

Hampden-Sidney.—A series of special services, in which much interest has been already shown, began in the College Association Room on Monday evening and is lasting through this week. Rev. H. Tucker Graham, of Farmville, Va., is conducting the services.

Lawrenceville.—The Rev. Wm. S. Campbell, of Richmond, preached at this church twice last Sunday, and two members were received into the church on certificate from the Methodist Church. Though this church has no pastor, it keeps up regular services, has a good Sunday School and from time to time receives members into its communion. Its prospects for growth were never better than they are now.

Lynchburg.—At the First Church, Dr. James D. Paxton is delivering a series of sermons at the evening services on the Life of Moses, grouped as follows: Great Battles of a Strong Soul, Great Problems solved by a Great Mind, Great Achievements by a Master Man and Salient Features of a Unique Life. Dr. Paxton has a valuable preparation for these discourses in the fact that he has made two extensive tours in Egypt and the Holy Land, and has made a special study of the archeology of the Mosiac period.

NEWPORT NEWS.

At the Second church, on the last Sabbath of the old year, we began our week of prayer, preparatory to the revival services to be conducted by Rev. Wm. Black, of North Carolina. During this week our hearts were drawn very near the great heart of the Master, as several professed Christ and united with the church. But this was only the beginning of better things. Mr. Black and his sweet singer, Mr. Burr, of Canada, arrived Saturday, Jan. 6, and Sabbath morning saw the beginning of services which proved to be the most blessed our church had ever known. All through the week at 10 A. M. and 7.30 P. M., Mr. Black spoke to interested audiences. The crowds grew so large that the large auditorium, with the lecture room thrown open, was crowded to its utmost capacity, and many standing two rows deep in the side aisles, so eager to hear the message as it fell from the lips of this man of God. Strong and fearless in declaring the Truth, gentle and tender in pleading with those out of Christ, earnest and sympathetic, he won all our hearts and we thanked God for sending to us one who lived so close to his Master.

Over one hundred confessed their need of Christ, and came out on the Lord's side—half of that number uniting with our church, while some have gone

to the sister churches in our city. One of the greatest agencies which added to the success of this meeting was Mr. Burr's singing, his earnest prayers and his personal work.

The church has more than doubled her membership during the present pastorate, and is becoming more zealous and interested along missionary lines.

May God stimulate us to more faithful service for him, that precious souls may be garnered in. C.

Norfolk.—Mr. S. W. Somerville addressed the Ghent and Colley Memorial Churches on the first Sunday of February, presenting interesting accounts of the work of the Assembly's Home and School at Fredericksburg.

At the First Church there were eight additions to the communion on February 4th. Four of these were on profession.

STAUNTON.

Dr. W. N. Scott, pastor of the Second church, Staunton, has been visiting his former congregation of the First church, Galveston, and has received a warm welcome to his old home.

Tazewell.—The Rev. and Mrs. S. O. Hall gave a delightful reception to the young people of the church and community one night last week. A programme of a literary and entertaining character was greatly enjoyed, the discussions taking a wide range. By the vote of the young ladies the prize for the best address was given to Mr. J. W. Spotts. Souvenirs of Tazewell were presented to the visiting guests.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Springfield.—On Sabbath, February 4th, thirty persons, ranging in age from twelve to eighty years, were received on confession of faith, into the Presbyterian Church of Springfield, West Virginia, by the pastor, Rev. Edward A. Snook. Eleven were baptized. A series of services, lasting two weeks, were held in the Methodist Church, Evangelist Rev. E. L. Caton, preaching. While held in the Methodist Church, church distinctions were obliterated for the time, and Methodists and Presbyterians worked side by side for the salvation of the people. There were about eighty conversions in all.

Williamson.—Rev. J. E. Booker, synodical evangelist, Sunday, February 4th, visited Williamson, W. Va., and was accompanied by Mr. A. Nelson Myers, who visited his brother, Rev. Charles F. Myers, pastor of the Presbyterian church. On Sunday, the 11th, inst., Dr. Newton Donaldson, of Huntington, and Mr. Myers exchanged pulpits.

Romney.—The Rev. F. J. Brooke, D. D., took charge of this church January 1st and has been most cordially received by the church and community. The manse has been newly painted in part and newly papered throughout, and the good ladies added much to the beauty and comfort of the house by covering several floors, etc. His family did not arrive until February 2nd, and when they did come they found a delicious supper spread for them and the pantry well filled with all sorts of good things, and wood and a purse with which to purchase coal, etc., etc. Nothing has been left undone to make the new pastor's advent most cordial and comfortable. Dr. Brooke begins his pastorate under hopeful circumstances.

Pickens, Randolph County.—The papers report that the Rev. J. L. Lineweaver, the young brother in charge of the Presbyterian mission church at this point, called to the door of his home, was fired at by a drunken saloon keeper. The bullet missed its mark, but passed through a partition almost directly over the head of the preacher's wife, who was sitting in a chair, nursing a baby. Mr. Lineweaver was unable to defend himself on account of a broken hand, but a number of citizens rushed to his assistance, and his assailant was given a severe beating, after which he was locked up in jail. He will be tried in Elkins on the charge of attempted murder. The Christian minister doing his duty faithfully in one of the new towns of our mountain regions is exposed to serious perils, as real as the dangers that surround the missionary in the heathen land. Such murderous assaults as this one show the wicked spirit of the liquor-selling men, and arouse the sentiment of better classes. A kind providence protected the life of a valuable young minister. We hope he has been spared for many years of fruitful service to Pickens and Randolph county.

ARKANSAS.

Mena.—The new church here was opened for service on the first Sabbath in the year (7th inst.). Rev. T. C. Johnston, Synodical evangelist, was present and preached an able sermon. Services were continued for ten days and much good was done. The visible results were twelve additions to the church. Mena